

Inventor: Bruce C. Johnson

Serial No.: 08/615,814

-2-

when flexed acting to stabilize the outer wall tissue and thereby prevent the outer wall tissue of the first and second nasal passages from drawing in during breathing; and  
a resilient member defining at least a portion of the first and second end regions and the intermediate segment, whereby the resilient member, in being capable, at least in part, of resilient deformation, allows the truss member to conform to the outer wall tissue of the nasal passages of a nose and provides the inherent tendency of the truss member to return to its [normally planar] initial state when flexed.

Please cancel claims 8, 9, 11 and 13.

Please rewrite the following claims as indicated:

10. (Twice amended) [The dilator of claim 8 wherein] A nasal dilator capable of introducing separating stresses in outer wall tissues of a user's nose, said dilator comprising:  
a truss having a pair of spaced apart end surfaces which, if forced toward one another from initial positions to substantially reduce direct spacing therebetween by a spacing reduction force external to said truss, results in restoring forces in said truss tending to restore said direct spacing between said end surfaces, due to said truss [includes] including a resilient member providing said restoring forces and said truss tending to restore said spacing between said end surfaces thereof], there being a deformable material between exposed surfaces of any outer wall tissues engaged by said engagement means and said resilient member; and

*2 DRAFT*

Inventor: Bruce C. Johnson

Serial No.: 08/615,814

-3-

engagement means adhered to said end surfaces and capable of engaging exposed surfaces of such outer wall tissues sufficiently to remain so engaged against the restoring forces.

12. (Amended) [The dilator of claim 8 wherein] A nasal dilator capable of introducing separating stresses in outer wall tissues of a user's nose, said dilator comprising:

a truss of a single body having a pair of spaced apart end surfaces which, if forced toward one another from initial positions to substantially reduce direct spacing therebetween by a spacing reduction force external to said truss, results in restoring forces in said truss tending to restore said direct spacing between said end surfaces; and

engagement means adhered to said end surfaces and capable of engaging exposed surfaces of such outer wall tissues sufficiently to remain so engaged against the restoring forces, said truss and said engagement means together [are] being formed as a strip having a length substantially greater than either its width and thickness, and a width substantially greater than its thickness substantially everywhere along said length.

14. (Twice amended) [The dilator of claim 8 wherein said] A nasal dilator capable of introducing separating stresses in outer wall tissues of a user's nose, said dilator comprising:

a truss having a pair of spaced [-] apart end surfaces [of said truss are] terminated by end edges at opposite ends of said truss which, if forced toward one another from initial positions to substantially reduce direct spacing therebetween by a spacing reduction force external to said truss, results in restoring forces in said truss tending to restore said direct spacing between said end surfaces due to [and wherein said truss includes] a resilient member [providing said restoring forces in said truss tending to restore said spacing between end surfaces thereof] included therein, said resilient

*single limb  
body strip*

Inventor: Bruce C. Johnson

Serial No.: 08/615,814

-4-

member having opposite ends thereof each ending short of said end edges;  
and

engagement means adhered to said end surfaces and capable of engaging expose  
surfaces of such outer wall tissues sufficiently to remain so engaged against  
the restoring forces.

15. (Amended) [The dilator of claim 9 wherein] A nasal dilator capable of introducing  
separating stresses in outer wall tissues of a user's nose to restrain those tissues from being drawn  
in during breathing, said dilator comprising:

a truss of a single body having a pair of spaced apart end surfaces which, if  
forced toward one another from initial positions to substantially reduce  
direct spacing therebetween by a spacing reduction force external to said  
truss, results in restoring forces in said truss tending to restore said direct  
spacing between said end surfaces sufficient to substantially maintain  
during inhalation that spacing occurring between said end surfaces prior to  
inhalation, said end surfaces [are] being limited in separation therebetween  
so that, when said end surfaces are engaging outer wall tissues of a human  
nose adjacent nasal passages therein, a surface of said truss can be in  
contact with said nose for substantially all of that extent thereof between  
said end surfaces; and

engagement means adhered to said end surfaces and capable of engaging expose  
surfaces of such outer wall tissues sufficiently to remain so engaged against  
the restoring forces.

Please cancel claims 17, 20 and 22.

Please add the following claim:

23. A nasal dilator capable of introducing separating stresses in outer wall  
tissues of a user's nose, comprising: